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UNCLAS DHAKA 000194

SIPDIS

FOR I/FW, B/G, IIP/G/NEA-SA, B/VOA/N (BANGLA SERVICE) STATE FOR  
SA/PAB, SA/PPD (LSCENSNY, SSTRYKER), SA/RA, INR/R/MR, AND PASS TO  
USAID FOR ANE/ASIA/SA/B (WJOHNSON)

CINCPAC FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR, J51 (MAJ TURNER), J45 (MAJ  
NICHOLLS)

USARPAC FOR APOP-IM (COL HEDRICK)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OIIP](#) [OPRC](#) [KPAO](#) [PREL](#) [ETRD](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [BG](#) [OCII](#)

SUBJECT: Media Reaction: Iraq, Sudan;Dhaka

Summary: English "Daily Star" thinks that sectarian violence will  
be aggravated if elections are held on schedule in Iraq.

Commenting on the signing of an accord between the Sudanese  
government and the southern rebels, conservative Bangla "Ittefaq"  
says that a similar understanding must be reached with the people  
of Darfur in order to establish peace in the country.

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[1](#)1. IRAQ  
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"The Chink in the Armor"  
Independent English language newspaper "Daily Star" editorially  
comments (1/17):

There is evidence that the entire U.S. project in Iraq is  
hopelessly flawed and its armed forces are being vanquished by a  
ferocious guerilla army. The security situation in occupied Iraq  
is clearly dangerous with 1600 o 3000 guerilla attacks launched  
towards Americans every moth. Both Iraq's interim government and  
the U.S. are in a fix on whether to hold the election scheduled  
on January 30. The ever-escalating sectarian violence will only  
increase if there is a continued insistence on going ahead with  
the polls even without Sunni participation. On the other hand if  
the elections are postponed the fears are that the Shias may take  
up arms. It is a tough situation.

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[1](#)2. Sudan  
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"The Peace Accord in Sudan"  
Conservative Bangla language newspaper "Ittefaq" editorially  
comments (1/17):

Good news has come from Sudan. On Sunday, Sudan's Vice President  
and the Chief of Southern rebel group signed a peace accord in  
presence of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.... However,  
there is a gulf of difference between the signing of an accord  
and implementing it. The people of Sudan saw the signing of  
similar peace accord in the past, and peace did not return.  
Specifically, there is a problem with the people in the Darfur  
region as they were not included in the peace accord.

The government must come into an understanding with the Darfur  
rebels to establish peace in the country.

Thomas